Indian Delegation of Habitat II

1222. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sent any delegation to represent the country in Habitat-II concluded recently at Istanbul;

(b) if so, the details regarding composition of the delegation; and

(c) the details of the stand taken therein by the said delegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESHWARLU): (a) and (b) An eleven member Indian delegation headed by Secretary (Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation) took part in the Habitat II Coinferenc held at Istanbul during 3rd to 14th June, 1996. The composition of the delegation was as follows:—

(1) Secretary (UF&PA) Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

(2) Adviser (HUD & WS) Planning Commission.

(3) Joint Secretary (Housing, Emp. and Poverty Alleviation).

(4) Chairman-cum-Managing Director Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited.

(5) Permanent Representative of India to UNCHS.

(6) Executive Director, Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council.

(7) Director (Housing), Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

(8) Director (UD), Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

(9) Charge D' Affairs, Embassy of India, Ankara.

(10) Consul-Geneal of India, Indian Consulate at Istanbul.

(11) Vice Consul-General of India; Indian Consulate at Istanbul.

(c) The Indian delegation contributed sustantially to the Conference by highlighting some of the serious problems facing urban and rural habitats in developing countries and urging the developed countries to assist them in acheving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development. Important achievements by Habitat II Conference were the adoption of the Habitat II Agenda (Containing statement of goals and principles, commitments and the Global Plan of Action) and the Istanbul Declaration. India was chosen as the spokesman for G-77 countries in the Working Committee to negotiate on international cooperation and coordination and implementation and follow-up action of the Habitat II Agenda p.

The issue of right to housing, which had proved intractable during the preparatory process, was resolved, India's stance helped in arriving at an acceptable formulation. All the participating countries reaffirmed their commitments to full and progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing as provided for in international instruments. It was agreed to provide special attention to ensuring legal security of tenure, protection from discrimination and equal access to affordable and adequate housing for all. It was recognised that the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups should especially be addressed.

India brought focus on rural settlements development too and at its initiative, a paragraph was included in the Istanbul Declaration.

Formulations suggested by India in respect of disabled groups were incorporated in the Global Plan of Action.

The members of delegation made significant contributions to bring about a consensus between G-77 countries and developed countries with regard to the Habitat II Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration. India played a significant role in negotiating with the developed countries with a view to their pledging of adquate development assistance to the developing countries.

Enquiry committee report on land allotment in Delhi

1223. DR. RANBIR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to unstarred question 4363 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th August, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Enquiry Committee contstituted to enquire into allegations of irregularities in allotment of house sites under Twenty-point programme has since submitted its report and if so, the recommendations thereof and the action taken thereon;

(b) the details of allottees who have sold/transferred the plots/land on power of attorney;

(c) whether any action has so far been taken by Government for selling/transferring the plots/land;